

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF HELENA CHASE BIRDWELL'S SERVICE TO THE SECOND DISTRICT

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Helena Chase Birdwell of Barren County, Kentucky, who is moving on from my congressional office after almost seven years serving Kentucky's Second District.

Helena has spent her entire career serving others. After graduating from Glasgow High School and Eastern Kentucky University, she worked for the Barren River Area Development District, where she helped people find training and work opportunities. In 2012, she joined my office as a Constituent Services Representative. In this role, she has helped countless Second District residents navigate the bureaucracy of the federal government. Whether it's someone who needs a last-minute passport or someone trying to get Social Security benefits, Helena will make it happen. She will be missed not only by the many people she has helped, but also by the people at the federal agencies who love to work with her.

I want to congratulate Helena as she embarks on her new role as Barren County Clerk. I wish her the best of luck in this new endeavor.

RECOGNIZING JOAN NYE OF COLUMBUS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Nye of Columbus for her efforts to prevent suicide in Montana and the support she provides the survivors of suicide loss.

Ms. Nye serves on the executive board of the Montana chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and has led the organization for a decade as its chairwoman. She facilitates a support group for survivors of suicide loss and has been an active member of the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yellowstone Valley since its formation in 2004. The group sponsors monthly meetings, outreach events, fundraisers, and seminars.

A survivor of suicide loss, Ms. Nye chairs the AFSP Montana chapter's education committee which focuses on suicide prevention education and training. She helps health professionals, family members, and others learn to identify the risk factors and warning signs of suicide and how to seek help.

Ms. Nye is a key organizer of the Out of the Darkness Yellowstone Valley Walk, which raised nearly \$90,000 in September for AFSP

to invest in research, education, outreach, and support services.

Her efforts are critical in Montana which has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation. On average, a Montanan dies by suicide every 33 hours. Tragically, it is the eighth leading cause of death in Montana, and it is the second leading cause of death for young Americans.

Suicide, however, is preventable, and dedicated and compassionate advocates like Joan Nye are helping to save lives and end the stigma surrounding suicide.

Mr. Speaker, for her selfless devotion to the survivors of suicide loss and her tireless efforts to prevent suicide in Montana, I recognize Joan Nye for her spirit of Montana.

IN RECOGNITION OF HAL C. LAWRENCE III, M.D.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal C. Lawrence III, M.D. After eleven years of service, Dr. Lawrence recently retired as the executive vice president and chief executive officer of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

During his tenure at ACOG, Dr. Lawrence led the organization's work to support OB/GYNs, advance health care, and strengthen ACOG's position within the health care industry. Earlier in his career, Dr. Lawrence was a practicing OB/GYN in Asheville, North Carolina from 1979 to 2007.

As a fellow physician, I thank Dr. Lawrence for his long service to OB/GYNs and American patients. I am grateful for his partnership as we worked toward shared goals, and congratulate him on his retirement.

THE ASIA BIBI CASE REVEALS THAT PAKISTAN FAVORS EXTREMISM OVER JUSTICE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Pakistan is a state that not only harbors extremists but incorporates their wicked ideology into law. For years, Pakistani religious minorities have suffered under the nation's barbaric blasphemy laws, with dozens sentenced to death and many more brutally imprisoned, tortured, or attacked by extremist mobs. The prosecution and treatment of Asia Bibi under this absurd blasphemy law has revealed Pakistan to be governed by radical mobs rather than a fair justice system.

Asia Bibi, whose real name is Aasiya Noor, has been sitting on Pakistan's death row

for nine years for allegedly insulting the Prophet Muhammad when she was told she could not drink from the same cup as Muslims because she is a Christian. For defending herself and standing for universal values of religious liberty and human rights, she was horrifically beaten in front of her five children and condemned to die by Pakistan's courts. Fortunately, Pakistan's Supreme Court has shown some sense of justice and acquitted Bibi because there was no evidence to convict her. Yet her fate remains uncertain. Extremists have protested the court's decision across Pakistan and made clear their violent intent if she is released. In fact, two prominent Pakistani politicians who spoke out in defense of Bibi, were assassinated in 2011, including the only Christian member of Pakistan's cabinet.

However, it's unclear if the Pakistani government will protect her and not cave to extremist demands—as it has so many times before. Right now, Bibi and her family's lives are in danger. Being a Christian in Pakistan already is a huge risk but being one that has simply been accused of insulting Islam is to put a bounty on their heads for which Pakistan's multiple terrorist groups are eager to collect. Bibi's lawyer has already sought asylum for himself and his family in the Netherlands because of the death threats. But Pakistan's new Prime Minister, Imran Khan, has signaled he will appease the extremists by potentially blocking her attempts to flee Pakistan and vowing not to oppose a review of the Supreme Court's acquittal. This is unacceptable and demonstrates that Pakistan's leaders favor extremism over justice.

Perhaps, the only thing worse than Pakistan surrendering its rule of law to extremists is that the United States spends billions of dollars to support this corrupt government. There is no justification for our tax dollars subsidizing persecution of Christians and other minorities. America must end its assistance to Pakistan and send a clear message that its current course towards an extremist state ends in isolation.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MADELINE DONOVAN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, the work we do each day in Congress would not be possible without the tremendous efforts of our dedicated and talented staff.

Today I rise to recognize an especially valuable member of my team who is soon departing our office.

Madeline Donovan has been serving the needs of our North Country community since 2010, when she began working for constituents of our district in the office of my predecessor, Congressman Bill Owens.

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